

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims in this application are:

A. Total Number of Claims in the Application

The claims in the application are: Claims 1-24 and 36-39

B. Status of All of the Claims

Each of pending claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 17, 20, 22, 23, 36, 38 and 39 stand as finally rejected under either 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 6 was objected to and claims 4, 11, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 24 have been withdrawn from consideration.

C. Claims on Appeal

The claims on appeal are each of pending claims 1-24 and 36-39.

II. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 12-15, 17, 20, 22, 36, 38 and 39 were improperly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Drasler et al.; whether claims 10 and 23 were improperly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drasler et al. in view of Taheri et al.; and whether claim 37 was improperly rejected under § 103(a) in view of Drasler et al.